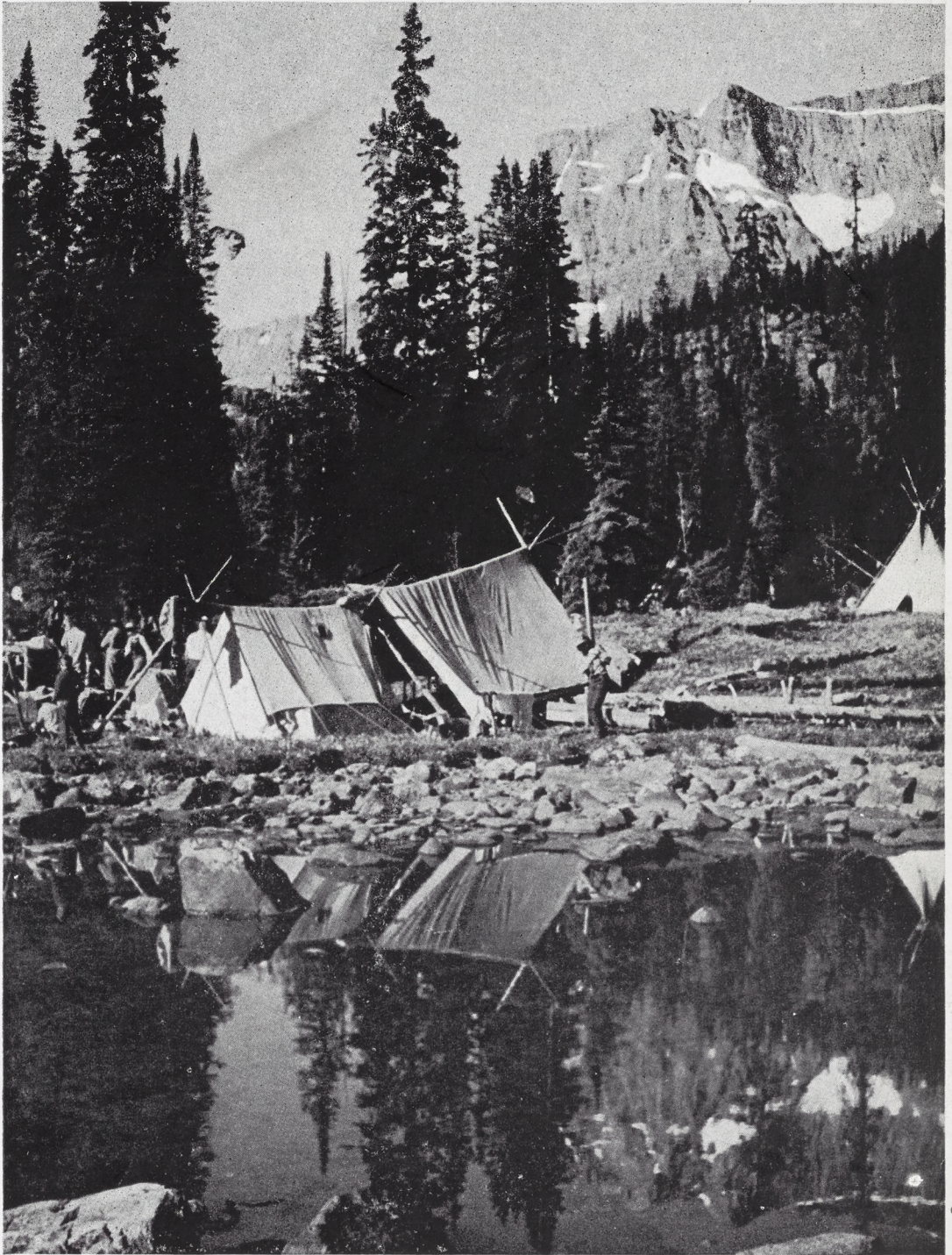


The Sky Line Trail



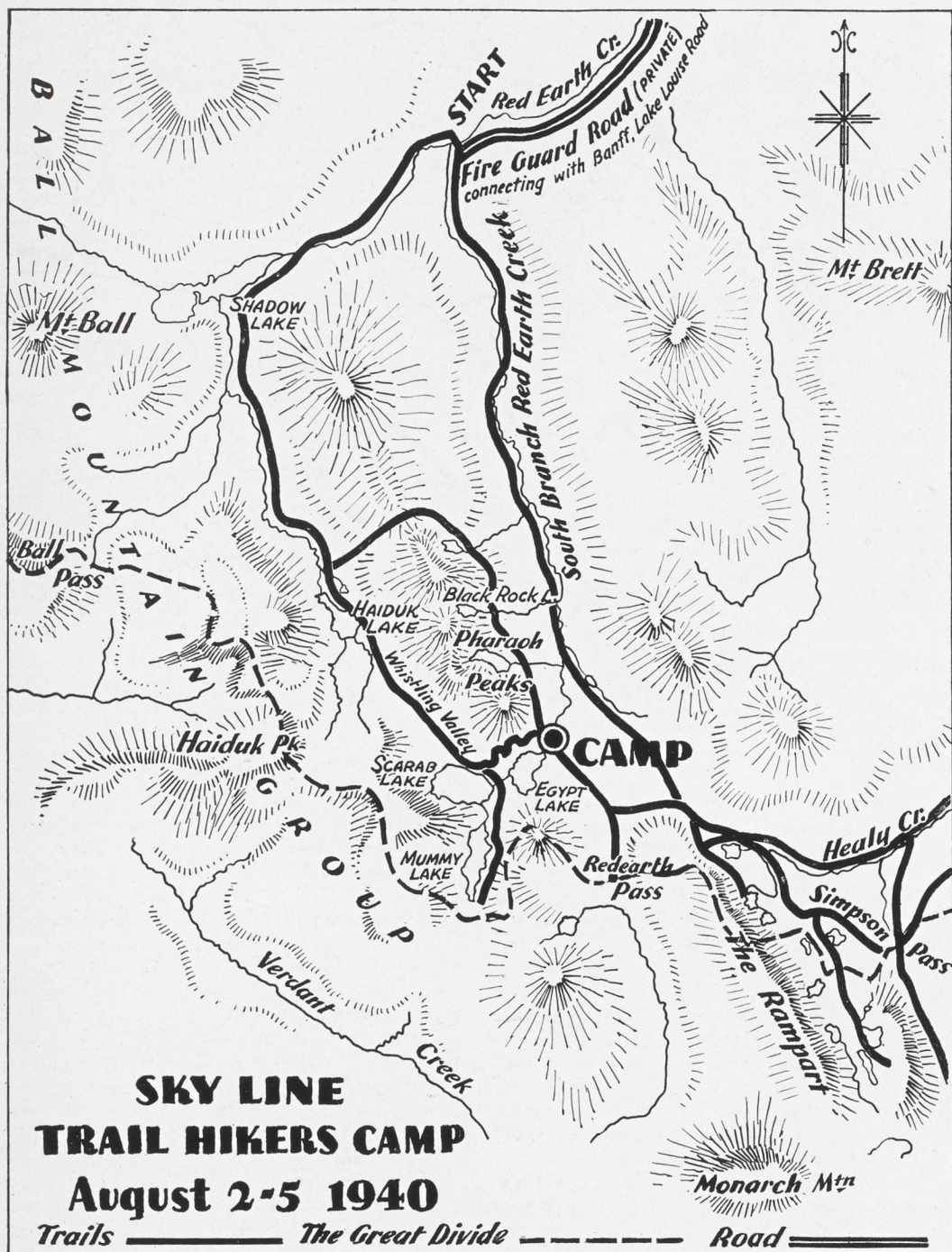
Camping at Egypt Lake
Photo by R. H. Palenske.

VOL. 7 No. 25
FEBRUARY 1940



*Official Organ of the
Sky Line Trail Hikers
of the Canadian Rockies.*

Printed in Canada.



Map of Egypt Lake Territory which will be the Scene of next Summer's Annual Camp.



Waterfall between Scarab Lake (of which it is the outlet) and Egypt Lake

Egypt Lake for the Sky Line Hikers' Camp, 1940

August 2-5

The decision to make our Sky Line Camp for 1940 at Egypt Lake depended on whether we could obtain permission from the Parks Branch of the Canadian Government to convey the members of our party and their duffle by light bus or car about six miles up Red Earth Creek along the road which is not, as a rule, made accessible to motor vehicles but is maintained only for fire protection. Without this means of access, it would not have been easy to operate this Camp successfully for less than five days, and experience has shown that four days is as long as many can spare out of their vacation time for this gathering. With the friendly support of Major Jennings, Ottawa has kindly agreed to let us have this privilege.

On last Summer's Trail Ride, a cavalcade passed over the new trail from Egypt Lake over Whistling Pass to Shadow Lake, and found the scenery superbly beautiful, while the trail itself though steep was good. Fly fishing in Egypt Lake is good, and according to those who know, this country is a paradise of alpine flowers.

It has been found convenient to entrust the outfitting of the Sky Line Camp to the same contractor as the Annual Trail Ride, as it is easier to get the crew necessary for the cook-tent

for a longer period than just our four days, so arrangements this year for outfitting have been made with Claude Brewster, of the Kananaskis Ranch, Seebe, Alberta.

The rate will be the same as that for last year namely \$20, which includes transportation of duffle from and back to Banff.

Mr A. O. Wheeler, F.R.G.S., who spent many years in topographical surveys of the Canadian Rockies for the Canadian Government, and whom we have the privilege of holding as our Hon. Vice-President, was the first to proclaim the outstandingly beautiful attractions of the Egypt Lake's territory for the trail hiker and alpine climber, and therefore we naturally turned to him for an expression of opinion as to the suitability of this area for the Sky Line Hikers Camp of 1940. Mr. Wheeler readily responded with the article which follows, and also supplied the basis for the map printed in this bulletin, marking the trails with which he was personally familiar up to the time of his retirement from topographical service.

Mr. Wheeler's interest in hiking has always been keen. For a number of years he organized hiking trips to Mount Assiniboine, and through his efforts that country became much more accessible.

An Alpine Guardian of Eden

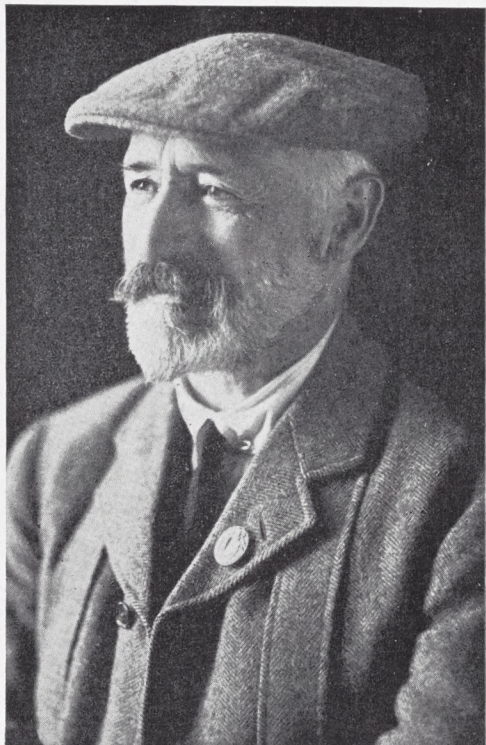
By A. O. Wheeler, F.R.G.S.,

Outstanding among the beauty spots of the Canadian Rockies is the Egypt Lake and Simpson Pass summit area. This locality is particularly well adapted to hiking, owing to the wide extent of alpine meadows and heater-strewn alplands well stocked with mountain wild flowers of brilliant hues. Especially attractive are the many little lakes of exquisite shades of blue and green which, with the sunshine dancing on their ripples, resemble scintillating gems of rarest beauty.

The Pharoah Peaks, (8895 feet and 8820 feet respectively above sea level) dominate the area around Egypt Lake and Monarch Mountain, (9488 feet) and of the Simpson Pass summit. Egypt Lake, Scarab Lake and Mummy Lake lie directly to the south of the Pharoah Peaks. Haiduk Lake lies immediately west and Black Rock Lake and two others, unnamed, lie east. Shadow Lake, beneath the towering precipices of Mt. Ball, a snow-capped massif, 10,825 feet in altitude, is farther north.

Particularly attractive is the Simpson Pass summit area. Here are open park-lands of alpine meadows interspersed with groves of Lyell's larch and umbrella-like spruce; vividly coloured tarns delight the eye.

Simpson Pass is, historically, of much interest owing to the first recorded crossing having been made by Sir George Simpson, Governor in Chief of the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1841. The pass and river heading south from it are named after him. It is recorded that Sir George Simpson had his name and date of the crossing carved on a tree at the summit. It is also known that the stump of this tree with the carving on it



A. O. Wheeler, F.R.G.S.

was removed by Mr. James Brewster of Banff, who now has it. If the original spot could be located, it would seem of much historic interest that a memorial cairn, similar to that on the Banff-Windermere road at the junction of the Simpson and Vermilion Rivers, should be erected on it.

Other features of interest in this locality are the series of concrete monuments placed across the pass summit to indicate the continental watershed, the boundary between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and the great rampart-like wall extending northward from Monarch Mountain, which massif dominates the locality.

Whistling Valley, immediately southwest of the Pharoah Peaks, is a home of the Hoary Marmot, the Siffleur or Whistler. Entering the valley, one soon hears their sharp whistles, often so close as to be startling. The sharp danger call is passed from one to another until the whole valley has been warned. They are easily approached to photograph and soon become tame.



*Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Wheeler at a Skyline Hikers' Pow Wow.
Photo by Nicholas Morant.*



National Parks Branch Photo

Egypt Lake near which the Sky Line Trail Hiker's Camp will be pitched, August 2-5, 1940.



Photo by R. H. Palenske

View of Mummy and Scarab Lakes from Simpson Pass.



Scarab Lake, separated from Mummy Lake by the rock wall.



Pharaoh Peaks — Mount Ball in distance.

Photo by Carl Rungius



Ball, at the foot of which may be seen a hanging glacier

Here also, among the rocks, may be seen the Little Chief Hare, the Pika or Haymaker. It needs a quick eye to spot them as they flit from rock to rock and their little piles of grass, flowers and other herbage may be seen set out on the rocks to sun-cure for winter use. They are difficult to approach; they look like a toy rabbit, and squeak like one when the bellows is pressed.

Throughout this area and in the Simpson Pass park-lands colonies of the Parry Marmot may be seen. These so-called mountain or tent-peg gophers are everywhere on the alplands. The latter cognomen is from the way they sit up motionless on their hind legs above their holes. Owing to the luxuriant pastures, the Rocky Mountain Goat, the "Old Man of the Mountains", frequents these valleys and may be seen on the heights or feeding in the meadows.

This system of open and sparsely timbered valleys is scenically very beautiful and will supply most satisfactory material for reproduction by the camera or the brush. Bounded on the west by the towering heights of the Mt. Ball Group and on the east by the great peaks of the Massive Range it has a magnificent setting. From the summits of Mummy Pass, Redearth and Simpson Passes glorious views are had of the "Great Beyond" reaching southward, even to far away Mt. Assiniboine.

Origin of the place-names of features one comes in contact with is of interest. How Pharoah Peaks received the name is not recorded. Egypt, Scarab and Mummy Lakes were named by me as a sequence when mapping that area. Haiduk Lake was named from a Polish word meaning "lively, vigorous," and when first seen with the sun, like diamonds, sparkling on its wind-blown

ripples the name seemed to apply. Incidentally Haiduk Peak got its name from the Lake. Black Rock Lake is from the high rock amphitheatre enclosing it; Shadow Lake from the overshadowing rock precipices of Mt. Ball. The naming of Simpson Pass has already been stated, also of Whistling Valley.

In 1935 the Sky-Line Trail led over Simpson Pass where Camp No. 1 was placed. Camp No. 2 was, as now proposed, at the easterly end of Egypt Lake and Camp No. 3 at Shadow Lake. It was a four-day hike and time only permitted a brief passing visit to the Simpson Pass and Egypt Lake areas. The coming Camp is designed to give a better acquaintance with the many delightful features of these localities and, given good weather, it will provide the fullest satisfaction, owing to their scenic splendours, their excellent hiking terrain and the many features of outstanding interest in science and art.

The story of the finding of the tree blazed in 1841 on Simpson Pass which Mr. Wheeler refers to, is told in Bulletin No. 5 dated March 1935. According to this Jim Brewster, who had read of Simpson's trip, went over the Pass with Bill Potts, now Chief of Wardens for the Banff National Park, to see if any trace could be found of this first journey. They discovered a tree, recently fallen, on which an inscription had been cut with the initials

G.S. beneath which were the initials J.R., evidently made by James Rowand, the fur-trader and guide who outfitted and accompanied this historic trail ride. In order to prevent further decay, a section of the tree was cut out and now may be seen in Jim Brewster's house.

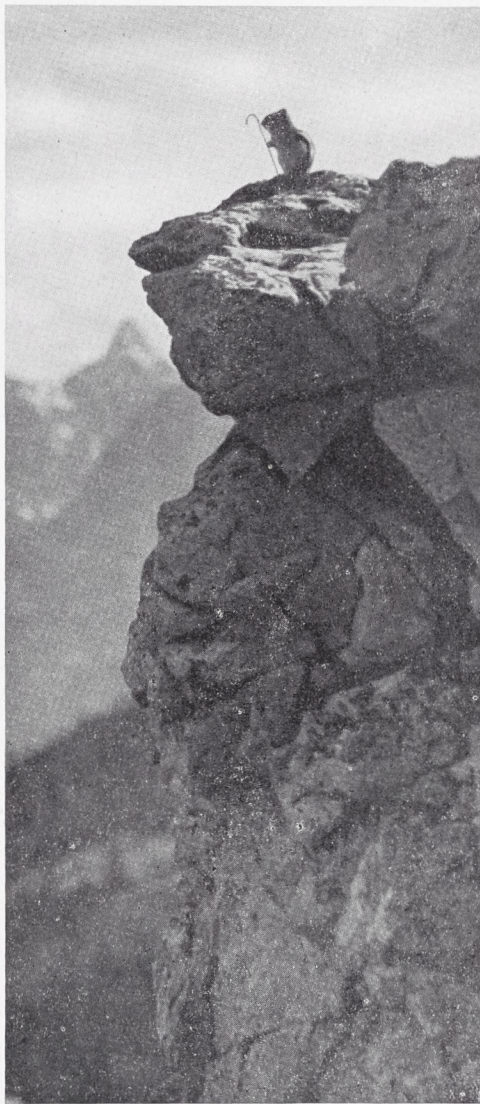


Photo by Nicholas Morant.

Monarch of all he surveys



On the trail beside Scarab Lake

Photo by Keith Hoffmeyer



Scarab Lake from the summit of Whistling Pass.

Photo by J. M. Gibbon

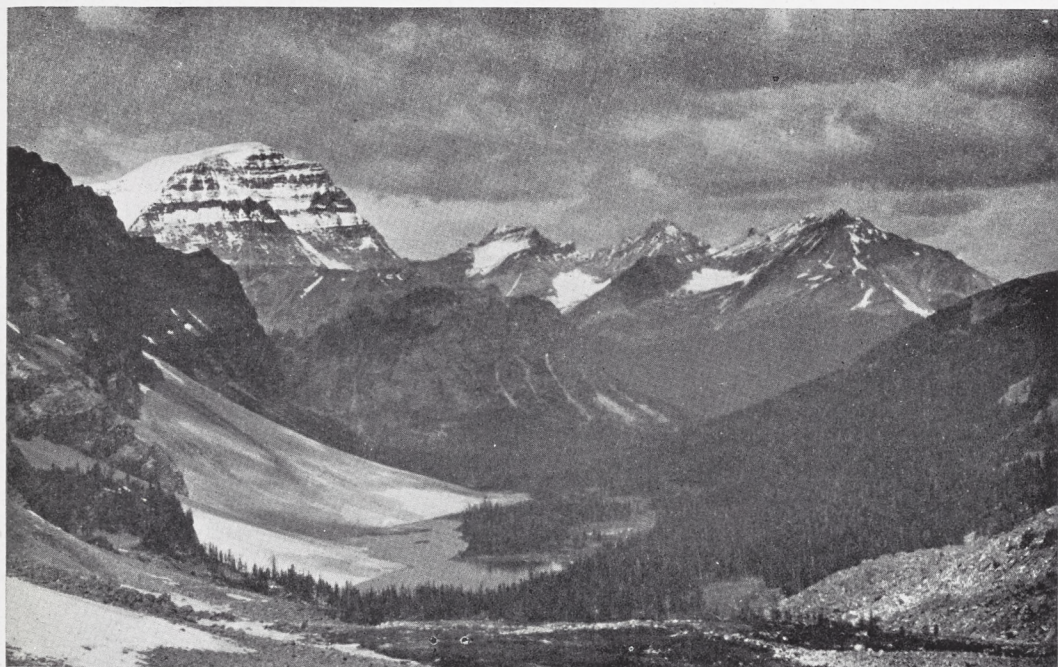


Photo by L. H. Leacock

Mount Ball and Haiduk Lake seen from summit of the Whistling Valley.

Dominion Ski Championship Tournament at Banff

As skiing is the winter form of hiking, so far as the Canadian Rockies are concerned, and as so many of our members are ski enthusiasts, it seems appropriate to give some particulars of the 1940 Dominion Ski Championships, the annual tournament of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, which will be held at Banff, February 29th to March 3rd. This Meet will be sponsored by the Ski Runners of the Canadian Rockies, Banff; the Calgary Ski Club; the Canmore Ski Club and the Lake Louise Ski Club.

National Championships will be decided in men's cross-country, slalom, downhill and jumping; ladies' downhill and slalom, and junior boys' and girls' downhill and slalom. In all there will be 15 Championships decided, making the tournament the greatest in Canadian history. Handsome prizes and trophies are awarded to the winners.

The tournament is open to amateur skiers as defined by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association and the U. S. National Ski Association codes and to F. I. S. Amateurs. Entries, which must be filled by the tournament Secretary not later than February 22nd, are subject to acceptance by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association.

They must be accompanied by the entry fee of \$1. for each event, and competitors must give their full names, age, address and the name of their Club. The tournament Secretary is Miss Ethel Knight, Banff, Alberta, who will send entry forms on application.

The tournament will be held at the Mount Norquay Ski Camp at Banff, the scene of the 1937 Meet. Since then many improvements have been made, including a large new Ski Lodge.

The downhill course starts at 7,400 feet altitude, and has a vertical descent of 2,700 feet in a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Improvements are being made in the jumping hill which are expected to result in jumps of close to 250 feet. The Langlauf will be staged over a standard 18 kilometer course, starting and finishing at Mount Norquay Lodge.

Special rates are announced by the Canadian Pacific Railway at approximately a cent a mile from Eastern Canada to Banff, with a 45-day limit. There is ample winter hotel and cabin accommodation for a very large attendance of visitors to Banff.



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OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

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Members holding qualification of 50 miles and upwards may compound their paid and future dues by payment of \$10.00 which shall absolve them from further payment of annual dues, and include a Life Membership Certificate upon the additional payment of \$1.00, but shall not exempt them from special dues or assessments should such be considered necessary.

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The new Life Membership Certificate for the Sky Line Trail Hikers designed by R. H. Palenske.

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